



September 2018

The heat wave Damage to Buildings



The heatwave will cause tens of thousands of homes to sink into the ground, insurers have warned, as they are braced for subsidence claims to quadruple.

Over the past two months a record-breaking spell of hot and dry weather has caused the soil on which homes are built to shrink, which will result in many sinking into the ground later this year, it is claimed.

Symptoms of subsidence like cracked walls usually appear several months after the damage is done, meaning homeowners could be forced into temporary accommodation over the Christmas period while their homes are being fixed.

1976 we saw the same, many properties were damaged, Shallow foundations were affected, which caused underpinning to be carried out,

H H Drew of New Milton, Hampshire collapsed owing £5m to trade credit

Local company Hampshire-based Herbert H Drew & Son collapsed leaving subcontractors and suppliers over £5m out-of-pocket.

Detail of the firm's debts have been released by administrators who said that unsecured creditors could receive 10p-20p in the pound if the full value of property assets is realised.

Founded in 1908 to build homes in the New Forest area, Drew grew to become prominent throughout most of central southern and south-west England taking on projects for public and private clients worth up to £8m. The contractor doubled its turnover to around £34m in its last draft accounts before calling in administrators but only booked profit of £134,000. The administrators report reveals that the company's financial director and chairman both retired in October last year, appointing a new financial controller who reviewed the accounts which revealed contracts seen as profitable were not delivering previously reported margins.

A £1m claim on a completed hospice contract, which was unlikely to be supported by insurers, raised concerns from Drew's bank that it could not meet its commitments.



The Queen's House



The most important building in Lyndhurst, New Forest is the Queen's House, which has also in the past been called the King's House, for the name changes according to the gender of the monarch. It is the principal building owned by the Crown in the New Forest, and contains the [Verderers' Hall](#), home of the ancient Verderers' Court. The Queen's House is also the local headquarters of the [Forestry Commission](#).

A [manor house](#) probably existed in Lyndhurst by the 13th century. In the reign of [Edward I](#) an order was given for "twenty oaks to make [laths](#) for the use of the queen's manor-house at Lyndhurst." This house was probably superseded by the hunting lodge built at Lyndhurst in the 14th century, which received frequent royal visits, and for which there are many records relating to the repair and enlargement. In 1388 a hall was built within the lodge, known later as the Verderers' Hall. Rebuilding took place in the reign of [Henry VIII](#), and especially in the 17th century, during the reigns of [Charles I](#) and [Charles II](#) and the current structure largely dates from this time. The last monarch to stay here was [George III](#) who visited the New Forest in June 1789. [Frances Burney](#), who was Second Keeper of the Robes to [Queen Charlotte](#), described the house as "a straggling, inconvenient, old house, but delightfully situated, in a village—looking indeed at present like a populous town, from the amazing concourse of people that have crowded into it."¹

A secret passage was found during major repairs in 1978 which we believe tunnelled out into the forest for escaping from the civil war in Charles 1st Raine, the oak joists were attacked by death watch beetle, and twisted due we think when central heating was installed.

Contractors Launch Health & Safety Apprenticeship

An apprenticeship scheme has been developed by construction contractors specifically for those seeking a career in health & safety management. The safety, health and environment apprenticeship scheme (or SHE) has been developed to provide a pipeline of trained staff to manage the risks in the workplace. It is designed to address the impact that changes in technology and innovation are having on business working practices.

The creation of the new qualification was spearheaded by a working group comprising contractors including Costain, Skanska, Balfour Beatty, Mitie, Morrison Utilities and Sisk, along with client organisations such as HS2 and Thames Water. Their work was supported by the Institute of Occupational Safety & Health, the Unite trades union and others.

The first 20 apprentices have started their apprenticeships in a range of companies, including those in the working group. A further 160 are due to start in the coming months. Two will be working with Costain on its A-one+ Joint Venture in Kent starting in September.

£50m Portsmouth Uni sports centre

Portsmouth City Council has approved plans for a £50m sports facility for the University of Portsmouth. Tendering is underway on the Ravelin Park project with stage two tenders due to be submitted in September. Plans for the new sports facility come as part of the University's estate masterplan that will see £400m invested in the campus over the next decade. The indoor sports facility will be the first project to be developed and features an eight-lane 25m swimming pool, eight-court sports hall, 175 station fitness suite, two flexible squash courts and a ski simulator.

Mike Bishop. FICConstM. Editor.
Governor
01962 713000
bishop1ue@btinternet.com